

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 11 of 1889.

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th March 1889.

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### LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.					
<b>BENGALI.</b>									
<i>Monthly.</i>									
1	" Kasipore Nibási "	Kasipore, Burrisal	30						
<i>Fortnightly.</i>									
2	" Ahammadí "	Tangail, Mymensingh	450						
3	" Ave Maria "	Calcutta	.....						
4	" Divákar "	Ditto	.....						
5	" Gaura Duta "	Maldah	.....						
6	" Grambási "	Uluberia	800						
7	" Purva Bangabási "	Noakholly	.....						
8	" Purva Darpan "	Chittagong	700						
9	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi "	Mahiganj, Rungpore	.....						
<i>Weekly.</i>									
10	" Arya Darpan "	Calcutta	102	1st	ditto.				
11	" Pangabási "	Ditto	20,000	9th	ditto.				
12	" Bördwán Sanjibáni "	Burdwan	302						
13	" Chándra Vilásh "	Berhampore	250	2nd	ditto.				
14	" Chártavártá "	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	4th	ditto.				
15	" Chhatta Gazette "	Chittagong	800						
16	" Dacca Prakásh "	Dacca	1,200	10th	ditto.				
17	" Education Gazette "	Hooghly	885	8th	ditto.				
18	" Garib "	Dacca	3,000						
19	" Gaurab "	Ditto	.....	7th	ditto.				
20	" Hindu Ranjiká "	Beauleah, Rajshahye	300						
21	" Jagatbási "	Calcutta	750						
22	" Murshidábád Patriká "	Berhampore	508						
23	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi "	Ditto	350						
24	" Navavibhákar Sádhárani "	Calcutta	100	11th	ditto.				
25	" Prajá Bandhu "	Chandernagore	995	8th	ditto.				
26	" Pratikár "	Berhampore	600						
27	" Rungpore Dik Prakásh "	Kakinia, Rungpore	205						
28	" Sahachar "	Calcutta	500	6th	ditto.				
29	" Samaya "	Ditto	3,806	8th	ditto.				
30	" Sanjivani "	Ditto	4,000	9th	ditto.				
31	" Sansodháni "	Chittagong	800						
32	" Santi "	Calcutta	3,722	13th	ditto.				
33	" Saráswat Patra "	Dacca	300						
34	" Som Prakásh "	Calcutta	1,000	11th	ditto.				
35	" Srimanta Saudagár "	Ditto	.....	4th	ditto.				
36	" Sulabha Samáchár o Kusadaha "	Ditto	800	8th	ditto.				
37	" Surabhi o Patáka "	Ditto	700	7th	ditto.				

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
38	" Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká "	Calcutta	1,500	10th to 12th & 14th March 1889.
39	" Samvád Prabhákar "	Ditto	800	7th to 13th March 1889.
40	" Samvád Purnachandrodaya "	Ditto	300	8th to 13th ditto.
41	" Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká "	Ditto	500	
<i>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	" Dacca Gazette "	Dacca	.....	11th March 1889.
<i>HINDI.</i>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	" Darjeeling Mission ke Máśik Sámachár Patrika."	Darjeeling	20	
44	" Kshetriya Pratiká "	Patna	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
45	" Aryávarta "	Calcutta	1,500	9th ditto.
46	" Behar Bandhu "	Bankipore	.....	
47	" Bhárat Mitra "	Calcutta	1,653	7th ditto.
48	" Sár Sudhánidhi "	Ditto	500	
49	" Uchit Baktá "	Ditto	4,500	
50	" Hindi Samáchár "	Bhagulpore	1,000	
<i>PERSIAN.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
51	" Jám-Jahán-numá "	Calcutta	250	8th ditto.
<i>URDU.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
52	" Aftal Alum Arrah "	Arrah	300	
53	" Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind "	Calcutta	.....	
54	" Anis "	Patna	.....	
55	" Gauhur "	Calcutta	196	11th ditto.
56	" Sharaf-ul-Akbar "	Behar	150	
57	" Al Punch "	Bankipore	.....	11th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
58	" Akhbar-i-darusaltanat "	Calcutta	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
59	" Urdu Guide "	Calcutta	212	6th to 12th March 1889.
<i>URDU.</i>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
60	" Asha "	Cuttack	.....	February 1889.
61	" Taraka and Subhávártá "	Ditto	.....	
62	" Pradíp "	Ditto	.....	
63	" Samyabadi "	Ditto	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
64	" Utkal Dípiká "	Cuttack	444	16th & 23rd February, 1889.
65	" Balasore Samvad Váhika "	Balasore	205	14th & 21st ditto.
66	" Urya and Navasamvád "	Ditto	600	13th & 20th ditto.
<i>PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.</i>				
<i>BENGALI.</i>				
67	" Silchar "	Silchar	500	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
68	" Paridarshak "	Silchar	450	4th March 1889.



## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

THE *Cháruvártá*, of the 4th March, thanks Government for its determination to reorganise the Police Department.

The reorganisation of the Police Department. But the work will prove even more arduous than the clearing of the Augean stable by Hercules. Is Government prepared to put forth the Herculean energy required for the purpose?

2. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 7th March, says that if the police is to be reformed, the following changes should be made in it:—

CHARUVARTA,  
March 4th, 1889.

Police reform.

SURABHI O PATAKA,  
March 7th, 1889.

- (1) Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors should be selected from among men who have passed University examinations, and appointments to those posts should be made according to the results of competitive examinations. The successful candidates should first learn the work of the department on small allowances, and should be permanently appointed after passing a departmental examination. District Superintendents should be recruited from among Assistant Superintendents, but all the Assistant Superintendencies should not be given to the relatives of Civilians and other high officials. In order to encourage educated officers working in subordinate capacities, half the number of Assistant Superintendencies should be thrown open to Inspectors.
- (2) In order to make police service attractive to educated men, proper salaries should be given to them. But no change of the existing grade system, with the exception of the abolition of the sixth grade Inspectorships on Rs. 30, will be necessary for this purpose, if the higher offices are thrown open to the subordinate officers.
- (3) It would be better to appoint local people instead of up-countrymen as pahrawallas. Up-country pahrawallas are not well acquainted with the language and manners of the people of Bengal, and they therefore create disturbances. This remark applies, *mutatis mutandis*, to the other provinces.
- (4) There should be only one grade of head-constables on Rs. 25 instead of the present four grades, and head-constables should not be required to investigate cases, but only to report distress, scarcity of water, epidemic diseases, &c. They should also be held responsible for the good conduct of the pahrawallas.
- (5) Promotion should depend not as now on the number of convictions which a police officer brings about, but on the decrease of crime within his jurisdiction. This will put a stop to the practice of getting up false cases.

3. The *Samaya*, of the 8th March, says that gambling is very prevalent in the country in spite of the law against gambling.

Gambling and the Police. In some places in the North-Western Provinces, certain gambling-houses are called *sarkari* gambling-houses. This probably means that gambling is carried on in those houses with the knowledge or connivance of the police. It is also very significant that gamblers always know when a police inspection will take place. And so when the police comes, the gamblers are nowhere. The police should look sharp.

SAMAYA,  
March 8th, 1889.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1889.

4. The *Sanjivani*, of the 9th March, publishes the following in connection with the alleged abduction of the Cabuli girl by Mr. Stack, Superintendent of

Police, Singbham. Last week the writer received an anonymous letter stating that Wazira Bibi, Mr. Stack's mistress, was living in the house of one Siddheswar Mukherjee on the Hajara road in Kalighat, and that Mr. Stack was visiting her almost every evening in that house. On receiving this letter the writer sent an agent to Kalighat to make an enquiry. What the agent has ascertained is stated in the following letter:—

"Wazira Bibi is living in the house of Siddheswar Mukherjee on the Hajara road, a little to the north of the Tramway dépôt at Kalighat. Wazira calls Siddheswar father, and Siddheswar has therefore given her shelter. We have learnt by making careful enquiries among Siddheswar's neighbours that Mr. Stack comes to the house almost every evening and sometimes at other hours. There is no doubt that Wazira is living in the house of Siddheswar under Mr. Stack's keeping. This man Siddheswar took Wazira and Mr. Stack to Chandernagore, and tried to prove that Wazira is older than she really is. Siddheswar himself has also told us that Wazira is in the keeping of Mr. Stack."

Wazira Bibi has stated in her deposition that she has not met Mr. Stack after leaving Singbham. But the fact of her and Mr. Stack's residence at Chandernagore and Kalighat conclusively proves that in making that statement she has perjured herself, and there is no reason why she should not be prosecuted for perjury. There may be much difficulty in making the necessary enquiries at Chandernagore, but there will be no such difficulty in enquiring what Mr. Stack has been doing at Kalighat. Mr. Stack has, for the purpose of satisfying his lust, enticed away a girl under 16 years of age, and has assisted Amir Hossain and other accused persons in coming away to Calcutta with that girl. And yet Mr. Stack is at large! Can anything be more scandalous and disgraceful than this? The Magistrate has the power to institute proceedings against Mr. Stack under the Criminal Procedure Code. And there can be no doubt that if Mr. Stack had been a native he would not have found this quite a peaceful time for him. Mr. Stack was Superintendent of Police, and it was his duty to bring the accused persons to justice. But the writer has got papers with him which will show that it was Mr. Stack, District Superintendent of Police, who assisted Amir Hossain and others to effect an escape after the issue of warrants for their arrest.

In the latter part of December, Mr. Stack wrote a letter to his friend Sobhan Ali Chaudhuri, a zemindar of Bogra, who lives at No. 88, Kalutollah Street, Calcutta, telling him that his servant Amir Hossain and his assistants were going down to Calcutta, and asking him to give them shelter either at his own house or in a hired house, and informing him that he himself would go down to Calcutta very soon and explain to him why he was making such a request. The Chaudhuri does not know English, and he asked a gentleman to explain to him the contents of the letter, and what is here stated about the letter was obtained from the gentleman who interpreted it to Chaudhuri. And this shows that if Mr. Stack is not himself guilty of abduction, he is guilty of aiding Amir Hossain and others in the commission of that crime, and for this proceedings should be instituted against him.

It is also worth while enquiring how Wazira fell in Siddheswar's way. There is something very strange and unusual about a Brahmin becoming the *dharmapita* or godfather of a Mahomedan girl.

The Magistrate of Alipore has not done well in allowing Wazira to live under the protection of Siddheswar without making careful enquiries. For Wazira's natural guardians say that she is still a minor. So long as

undisputed proof regarding the age of Wazira is not obtained, so long she ought to be kept under the protection of an honest man.

5. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 11th March, says that great damage is done by fires every year within the town of

Fires in Dacca.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
March 11th, 1889.

Dacca. There have already been two or three fires this year attended with loss of property. There ought to be a fire-brigade in Dacca, and both the Dacca Police and the Dacca Municipality ought to attend to this suggestion without delay.

6. The *Santi*, of the 13th March, does not agree with the editor of the *Statesman* newspaper and other experienced people in thinking that the poverty of

Increase of crime in the country. the people is the only cause of the increase of crime in the country. It is true that poverty is increasing in the country, but it is increasing only among the respectable middle class people, whom, however, poverty cannot lead into the paths of crime. The lower classes who commit more crime than any other class are now better off than before. They now get two meals a day, and have means enough to buy shoes, shirts, shawls and wrappers. Why is crime then increasing in this country? There are in every country some idle people who are loath to work regularly for their living, and who have therefore recourse to theft, robbery, dacoity and every other crime by which money can be obtained without hard work or systematic submission to authority. There are lots of such people in this country too, and the inefficiency of the present police has stimulated their criminal propensities. And crime is therefore on the increase. The present police is certainly an improvement in one respect upon the old police. For there is more education, intelligence and honesty in the present police than there was in the old. But the old police, consisting as it did of very corrupt men who were themselves budmashes, was more feared by the people and was better able to detect offenders than the present police. The present increase of crime is therefore due to the disappearance from the police of the element of wickedness, despotism and *zoolum* which made it so much feared in former times.

SANTI,  
March 13th, 1889.

### (b)—Working of the Courts.

7. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 7th March, says that the hearing

The Gocharan affray case in the of the Gocharan affray case ended on Wednesday last, but the Magistrate of Alipore

district of 24-Pergunnahs. delivered judgment after 4 P. M. on the Saturday following, and sentenced two out of the three accused persons to imprisonment. Was the passing of the sentence reserved for Saturday afternoon in order to make it impossible for the accused to prefer an appeal on that day? An application for appeal was made to the Judge, who wanted to see a copy of the judgment. But a copy of the judgment could not be procured so late in the day even though double the usual fee was offered for the purpose. The accused had consequently to go to jail. It is with a view of harassing people that Magistrates often pass sentences at a time when they know that it would be impossible to at once prefer appeals against the same.

SURABHO PATAKA,  
March 7th, 1889.

8. The *Bangabási*, of the 9th March, says that, if the criminal law

The Native Magistracy. were strictly administered, there would be fewer convictions in the Criminal Courts of the country. That European offenders are generally acquitted by European Magistrates is not because the European Magistrates deal partially by their countrymen, but because a strict application by them of the criminal law prevents the conviction of such offenders. There can be no doubt that a similar application of the criminal law by Native Magisterial officers would lead to acquittal in very many of those cases in which convictions are now

BANGABASI,  
March 9th, 1889.

arrived at. But many Native Magisterial officers fear to incur the displeasure with which Government regards those officers who acquit more largely than they convict, and thus there are more improper convictions in the country than there should be. Government ought not to attach any special responsibility to an acquittal. Native Magisterial officers offend seriously in another way in administering criminal justice. In passing sentences they take no note of the rank, caste, and social status of the accused, and as they treat high and low alike in this respect, they in reality often subject the former to severer punishment than the latter for committing acts of equal criminal gravity.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1889.

9. The *Sanjivani*, of the 9th March, hopes that Lord Lansdowne will appoint a native to one of the vacancies which will shortly occur in the Bench of the Punjab Chief Court. There is no Native Judge yet in that Court, and there are, both among the pleaders of that Court and among the Native Judges of the subordinate courts of that province, men who are fully competent to sit on the Chief Court Bench.

(d)—*Education.*

BANGABASI,  
March 9th, 1889.

The Middle English School at Jore-pukhuria in Pubna.

10. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 9th March, says that a number of boys have gone up this year for the Middle English Examination from the Middle English School at Jorepukhuria in Pubna.

The school may acquire stability if Government favours it with a grant.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1889.

11. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 9th March, draws the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to the condition of the Normal Schools.

He says that these schools are not turning out such men as it was intended that they should. For, in the first place, a great deal more has to be read in these schools than can be properly mastered in the course of three years, and in the second place the system of examination prevailing in these schools prevents all the subjects in which the students are examined from being studied with equal attention and diligence, which is the reason that the passed students of these schools are unable, when employed as teachers in the middle class schools, to teach satisfactorily many of the subjects which are studied in those schools.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
March 10th, 1889.

12. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 10th March, is astonished to find that Baboo Brahmamohan Mullick's *Geometry* is the only text-book on that subject which has been included in the list of text-books issued

The list of text-books for the Burdwan Division.

for his circle. Alternative text-books have been mentioned in grammar and other subjects. If the Inspector considers his own book to be the best of its kind in the Bengali language, he should at least in common decency have named some alternative text-books on that subject. As a matter of fact, however, there are many excellent text-books on Geometry in Bengali, such as the books by Bhudeb, Mohan Chand and Rajmohan. Baboo Brahmamohan's list is open to another serious objection. It ignores all the best Bengali writers in East Bengal. Such books as *Prabhát Chintá* and *Komal Kabitá* by Baboo Kaliprasanna Ghosh, the Geography of Bengal and *Mánasik Gananá* by Baboo Dinanath Sen, the *Sadbháb Sataka* by Baboo Krishna Chandra Majumdar, the *Sahitya-prabesha*, *Sisuprabesh Vyakaran* and *Padyamanjari* by Pandit Prasanna Chandra Vidyaratna, and the *Parimiti* and *Bályá Sikshá* by Babu Ramsundar Basak, have found no place in the list of text-books for the Burdwan Division. These books are so good that the list which does not include them cannot be considered to have been prepared in a spirit of justice and fairness. Scandals in connection with the

selection of text-books do not appear likely to come to an end very soon. But the Director of Public Instruction should nevertheless try his best to put them down.

13. The *Grámvási*, of the 13th March, will approve of the proposed education cess if the object of Government in imposing it be to charge no separate school fees upon those who will pay it. But if cess and school fee are both intended to be levied, the writer will strongly oppose the proposal.

GRAMVASI,  
March 13th, 1889.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

14. The *Sulabh Samáchár o Kushdaha*, of the 8th March, is sorry to learn that the Gobardanga Municipality has assessed taxes on the "Ramgopal Charitable Dispensary" at Khantura, in the 24-Pergunnahs district.

The "Ramgopal Charitable Dispensary" at Khantura, in the 24-Pergunnahs district. The managers of the dispensary objected to pay municipal taxes on the ground that such institutions are exempt from such taxes, but the municipal authorities have seized and carried away certain articles belonging to the dispensary. The Gobardanga Charitable Dispensary has been exempted from the payment of municipal taxes, and it is difficult to understand why this new dispensary at Khantura should be assessed to those taxes.

15. The *Grámvási*, of the 13th March, says that the Howrah District Board has directed the Local Boards under

The Howrah District Board and the construction of roads. it not to sanction money for any road unless the petition for it is accompanied by a plan of the road, a statement of its length, and an estimate of the cost of making it. This would be a good rule to follow if it could only be worked. But it does not appear to be a workable rule. Few applicants will consent to take so much trouble, and few among them will have the knowledge necessary for preparing fairly correct plans and estimates. Under these circumstances, it will be well to require applicants for roads to only prove the necessity for such roads, leaving it to the Local Boards themselves to prepare the necessary plans and estimates.

The writer has also heard that the District Board of Howrah will not pay money to those private gentlemen who have undertaken the construction of roads unless they submit plans of the roads which are being constructed under their management. But it is not easy to see why these gentlemen should not receive money when they have submitted accounts of the expenses.

16. The same paper makes the following observations regarding District and Local Boards and Union Committees:

SULABH SAMACHAR O  
KUSHDAHA,  
March 8th, 1889.

GRAMVASI,  
March 13th, 1889.

GRAMVASI.

(1).—It would have been better if the Local Boards and Union Committees had been entrusted with the powers which the Bengal Government once proposed to confer upon them. But though that has not been done, there is still much useful work which Union Committees can do. Roads, &c., will be better constructed by Union Committees than by the Local Boards. A Local Board will have to entrust the supervision of roads to private gentlemen. But Union Committees will supervise the construction of roads better than private gentlemen.

(2).—It is not easy to see why the members of the Local Boards should not get such travelling allowances as are given to the members of the District Boards. No distinction should

be made in this respect between the members of these two classes of Boards.

(3).—The writer does not agree with the Lieutenant-Governor that more attention should be paid to the construction of roads leading from one village to another than to the construction of roads within the villages themselves. Every attention should be paid to village roads when they are found to be very bad.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

SURABHI O PATAKA,  
March. 7th, 1889.

Road cess sales.

17. A correspondent of the *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 7th March, says that according to the law if a co-sharer of a mehal pays his share of the road cess due on account of it, and the remaining co-sharers do not, his own share of the mehal runs the risk of being sold for the recovery of his co-sharers' dues, and if he desires to save his share, he must pay what his co-sharers ought to have paid. This law operates with hardship upon the owners of small shares in mehals, and specially upon the owners of small shares in lakhiraj mehals. For the owners of small shares being generally poor men, they lose their shares if the owners of the larger shares do not pay their road cess dues. And as the co-sharers of lakhiraj mehals cannot open separate accounts like the co-sharers of revenue-paying mehals, the liability which they, if they are men of small means, stand under of having their shares sold for the default of the remaining co-sharers is one which they have no means of annulling. The owners of the larger shares often take advantage of this to wilfully withhold payment of their share of the road cess dues in order to be able to buy up *benami* the whole mehal. The proprietor of the largest share of the Arendra revenue-paying mehal in Midnapore lately made default in paying his share of the road cess, the whole mehal was therefore brought to sale, and the defaulting co-sharer himself purchased it *benami*.

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

EDUCATION GAZETTE,  
March 8th, 1889.

Re-excavation of ancient canals.

18. The *Education Gazette*, of the 8th March, referring to the re-excavation of the Para Sohag Canal by the Punjab Government, says that the area of cultivated land may be increased and the strain upon the productive capacity of the existing arable land in the country may be removed by means of such re-excavations. The Ceylon Government is doing much good work by restoring ancient works of this kind in that island. The Government of India should also restore all such ancient works in this country. The Hindus and the Mussulmans were not really less intelligent rulers than Englishmen. They constructed canals where canals were most needed and where canals were calculated to do most good. The English Government is making pecuniary profit and is also doing good to the people wherever it is re-excavating ancient canals of Hindu or Mussulman construction, and it is making no profit and is doing no good to the people where it is constructing canals of its own scheming. It is not, of course, meant that there should be no other canals in the country save those which were constructed in ancient times, and that those old canals should be restored in exactly their former shape. What is meant is that these ancient canals should be first re-excavated, and that Government should not too readily make new canals at the instigation of those engineering officers who want to make a name for themselves by carrying out new canal schemes.

The English people have many really good traits in their character, but they have also some very grave failings. Among these are their inordinate

self-esteem and inordinate selfishness. It is this defect in their character which prevents them from doing as much good as they could otherwise have done. Englishmen ought to see and feel that the arrangements for the political government of a large civilised and prosperous country like ancient India must have been good, and it ought to be their foremost duty to ascertain which of those arrangements were good, and should therefore be retained, adopted, or continued by them. But they are wanting in reverence for these ancient things. If they had been able to regard with reverence what India possessed in ancient times, they would surely have found much to admire in its roads and canals as well as in its politics, society and religion. If they had been able to perceive the real value of India's own things, they would not have been so eager to substitute inferior English things for these ancient and indigenous Indian institutions. They have set it down in their minds that all that is English is good and all that is Indian is bad. But this is clearly a most unhappy error. In many respects India's old things were better. The Indians have not much to take from Englishmen, except the sense of justice of the English Government and the spirit and sentiment of unity of the English people.

The English Government seems to be doing the right thing in setting about the work of restoring the ancient works of this country. This policy will benefit the country and it will also benefit the Government. Charity does more good to him who gives than to him who takes.

It is hoped that the Provincial Governments will prepare a list of the ancient canals within their respective territories, and re-excavate those among them whose re-excavation may appear likely to be beneficial. Such re-excavation will benefit trade and agriculture in some places, and will improve public health elsewhere.

19. A correspondent of the *Samaya*, of the 8th March, says that

Roads in Beniachang, Sylhet.

Government collects nearly Rs. 20,000 every year from the people of Beniachang in Sylhet

in the shape of local taxes and road cess. But a very small portion of this sum is spent for their benefit. It was decided some time ago to construct roads there, and money was sanctioned for the purpose last year. But there is no indication yet that roads are really meant to be constructed. Will Government take money from the people by holding out to them idle hopes of this kind?

20. Referring to the recent breaking of the chain connecting the carriages composing a railway train near the Malancha station on the Northern Bengal State line, the *Sulabh Samáchár o Kushdaha*,

of the 8th March, says that the accident might have proved as serious as that which occurred some time ago at the Sultanpore station. Government ought to take measures without delay for preventing such breaking of chains. For so long as such measures are not taken the passengers on that line will not be safe.

(h) — General.

21. The *Sahachar*, of the 6th March, has noticed during the last

The Bengalis in the Public Service.

few years an attempt on the part of the Provincial Governments to exclude the Bengalis

from the Public Service of every other province except Bengal. When Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Ashley Eden tried to exclude the Bengalis from Behar, and circulars directing their exclusion have now been issued by the Punjab and North-Western Provinces Governments. The Bengalis domiciled in those provinces have protested against those circulars. But the North-Western Provinces Government has paid no heed to that

SAMAYA,  
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SULABH SAMACHAR  
o KUSHDAHA,  
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SAHACHAR,  
March 6th, 1889.

protest. The Bengalis, however, do not object to other Indian races and even the Burmese remaining in the Public Service of their own province, and there is therefore no exclusion circular of any kind in operation in Bengal. The Bengalis do not envy other races, and they want fair field for all and no favour. The attempt to exclude the Bengalis from the public service of other Indian provinces is not now confined to issuing exclusion circulars against them. Systematic pressure is now being put upon the Bengali employés in the Government offices in the North-Western Provinces in order to make them resign their offices, and some English officials are aiding the movement.

This action of the Punjab and North-Western Provinces Governments involves a clear violation of the Queen's Proclamation. It is not easy to understand why the Bengalis who first invited the English to assume sovereignty over them are being treated in this way by their English rulers. The Bengalis are now abused by Englishmen exactly in the same way as the Scotch were abused by Englishmen a century ago. But then the Scotch took up arms for the Pretender, and the Bengalis have been guilty of no such disloyalty. But disloyal as they were, no English Minister ever declared against Scotchmen that they would be unable to hold a public appointment south of the Tweed. Is this treatment of the Bengalis owing to their political agitations and to their devotion to the Congress? Lord Dufferin has indignantly disclaimed any intention on the part of Government to create disunion among the different Indian races, and Sir John Gorst has declared that the English Government is not opposed to the progress of the Indians. But it nevertheless appears to the writer that the Bengalis have been oppressed more than before since the establishment of the Congress.

SAHACHAR,  
March 6th, 1889.

22. The same paper says that the rivers in many parts of this province are silting up. This silting up of rivers is producing scarcity of water, injuring trade and agriculture, and leading to outbreaks of epidemic diseases. The late Rajah Digamber Mitra pointed out 24 years ago that the silting up of the rivers, which were the natural drains of the country, was the cause of the outbreak of malarious fever in this province. Accepting this view of the matter, Government has set free many of the old water-courses which had been obstructed by roads and railways, and has directed that, in constructing roads and railways in future, special provision should be made for providing a free outlet for rain-water.

But nothing has yet been done to set free the rivers which have silted up. Government pleads want of funds whenever it is asked to do anything which will benefit the people, but it finds money readily enough for wars. It is the shop-keeping spirit of the English people which makes them ask, when they are called upon to do something for the benefit of the people, whether the work will pay its own expenses. And that is why they cannot understand the sound maxim that all improvement in the condition of the people invariably results in increased revenue to the State. It is this shop-keeping policy of the English Government which has made the irrigation canals a curse instead of a blessing to the cultivators. It is this calculating spirit which makes Government seek a remedy for a real evil in makeshifts and half-measures instead of in really efficient remedial measures. Let Government appoint a Commission of Engineers to enquire whether the rivers which are silting up in this province can be kept free, and if the Commission report in the affirmative, let money be raised by loan for re-excavating the rivers. Let irrigation canals be constructed where they will do good, and let the ryots be allowed to use their water free of charge, or on payment of a very small charge. It is not for the municipalities to undertake so vast a work

as the clearing of rivers and canals. Government should first set the rivers free, and then entrust the municipalities with the work of keeping them free in future.

23. The *Surabhi o Patáká*, of the 7th March, says that according to Sir John Gorst India was not mentioned in

Sir John Gorst on India.

*SURABHI O PATAKA,*

March 7th, 1889.

off. But the prosperity of India is a thing which exists only in Sir John Gorst's disordered imagination. The Indian exchequer is empty, and there is scarcity in Behar, Madras, Bombay, and Orissa. And yet Sir John Gorst says that India is in a prosperous condition! There is no falsehood that these English ministers will not utter in order to save their own reputation.

24. The *Sulabh Samáchár o Kushdaha*, of the 8th March, complains

The Administration Report for 1887-88.

that some of its contemporaries received copies of the Bengal Administration Report for 1887-88 long before it received a copy thereof.

It is very kind of the Government to furnish native papers with the Administration Report, but it is to be regretted that it is not supplied punctually.

25. The *Bangabási*, of the 9th March, says that the Bengal Library catalogue of books for the second quarter ending 30th June 1888 has been published

The Bengal Library.

in the last issue of the *Calcutta Gazette*. It is difficult to understand what good is done by including books in the catalogue one year after their publication. Cannot the Librarian take a little more care and trouble and bring out the catalogue more punctually?

26. The *Sanjivani*, of the 9th March, says that, in order to secure personal ease and comfort, the higher officers of Government waste a great deal of the

The Simla exodus.

resources of the Empire on the Simla exodus. Such wasteful expenditure of the revenue, which is raised by sucking dry the life blood of a whole people, is only possible in India. The Committee appointed in 1879 under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble B. W. Colvin to consider the question of the Simla allowances, observed as follows:—"The advantages of expending the hot season in the hills are sufficiently great in themselves, and we do not think it necessary to indemnify officers for any expense incurred on account of their families which is accompanied by such advantages." This remark applies only to highly paid officials. But the cost incurred in taking clerks up to Simla is by no means inconsiderable. According to the finding of the Committee appointed in 1886, with Sir Charles Elliott as its President, Government has to spend Rs. 1,220 in pay, travelling allowance and house-rent for every clerk whose salary is Rs. 40 per month if he is taken to Simla, and if Government appoints two clerks drawing Rs. 40 each, one for the Calcutta office and another for the Simla office, there will be an annual saving of Rs. 740 to Government for each clerk drawing Rs. 40 a month. When so large an amount of money is annually spent for a clerk drawing only Rs. 40 a month, it is easy to imagine how much clerks on higher salaries must be costing. But Government has done nothing within the last three years in the direction of curtailing this expenditure. And so long as India is not governed for the benefit of the Indians, there is no hope whatever that the wasteful expenditure incurred on account of the Simla exodus will be put a stop to. No real reduction will be effected by depriving poor clerks and duftries of their trifling allowances. The shears of retrenchment should fall first of all upon the highly paid officers. If Lord Lansdowne has a desire to be as popular a Viceroy as Lord Ripon, His Lordship should first curtail all superfluous expenditure incurred on account of the highly paid officers, and then bring to a close the career of gaiety and amusement which those officers pursue at Simla at the expense of the State.

*SULABH SAMACHAR O KUSHDAHA,*

March 8th, 1889.

*BANGABASI,*  
March 9th, 1889.

*SANJIVANI,*  
March 9th, 1889.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1889.

27. The same paper says that the attention of the Assam Government has been repeatedly drawn to the fact of Mr. Kennedy's indebtedness, but that Government has taken no notice of the matter. And

The Assam Government and the Assistant Commissioner, Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy is therefore going on making new debts and is not paying his old debts. Mr. Kennedy is not a civilian, but he performs a civilian's work. He is now only an Assistant Commissioner, but he may any day become a Deputy Commissioner. Why then should not the rule which makes it unlawful for a civilian to borrow money in the place where he is employed apply to Mr. Kennedy too? And as Mr. Kennedy has to perform judicial work, his indebtedness may do serious harm by affecting his independence. There will be no harm if he is employed to do purely executive work. The writer has it on good authority that Mr. Kennedy has given Amarchand Agarwala a fresh hand-note; but he does not know whether this hand-note has been given for a fresh loan, or only by way of renewal of the old hand-note. The new hand-note was given on the 1st August 1888, and is for Rs. 2,895.

SANJIVANI.

28. The same paper says that if the measures, which the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to adopt for the purpose of improving the sanitary condition of coolie depôts and preventing simple people from being decoyed to the tea-gardens by coolie recruiters, are faithfully carried out, coolie oppression will receive some check, and the sufferings of the coolies will be partially mitigated.

SANJIVANI.

29. The same paper says that by enabling Sir Henry Harrison, the Chairman, to receive the same remuneration which he receives as Chairman and Commissioner of Police as well, Government has set a fine example of retrenchment of expenditure. Sir Henry is an Englishman, and he receives for doing one duty the same pay which he received for doing two! Surely retrenchment means one thing in the case of the European officers of Government, and a very different thing in the case of its native officers.

SANJIVANI.

30. A correspondent of the same paper says that Baboo Srinath Gupta, the Sub-divisional Officer of Bagirhat, in Khoolna, lately instituted criminal proceedings against Baboo Nibaran Chandra Mukerji, the

Baboo Srinath Gupta, Sub-divisional Officer of Bagirhat, in Khoolna. local native doctor, on the ground that he had accepted a bribe of Rs. 100 intended for the late Deputy Magistrate Baboo Narendra Nath Chowdhuri. The native doctor stated that he had incurred the displeasure of the Deputy Magistrate, and that the proceedings against him had been instituted out of pure malice. On the application of the doctor, the case was transferred to the District Magistrate's court, and the doctor has been acquitted. Government is requested to make a careful enquiry into the case.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
March 10th, 1889.

31. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 10th March, says that as the outstills in the Howrah and 24-Pergunnahs districts have been abolished, to prevent the loss which they had been occasioning to the sunder distilleries in Calcutta, it is not easy to understand why some newspapers are lauding Government for it. Government has acted from purely interested motives. The writer would have heartily thanked Sir Stewart if he had abolished the outstills in the other districts also.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
March 11th, 1889.

32. Referring to Lord Cross's statement in the House of Lords that it was the intention of Government to reduce Lord Cross on the salt duty. the salt duty, the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 11th March, says that this intention of Government means not that Government

has been moved to pity for the poor Indian whom Lord Dufferin's salt duty has subjected to such hardship, but that the decreased consumption of salt has affected the Government's salt revenue.

33. The same paper says that Sir Auckland Colvin issued a circular some time ago prohibiting all Government

Political agitation.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
March 11th, 1889.

taking part in political agitation or political movements, and the writer is now sorry to find that the just Chief Commissioner of Assam has issued a similar circular in his own province. It seems that these circulars are being issued with the knowledge and sanction of the Government of India.

34. The *Som Prakash*, of the 11th March, says that Government can improve Indian agriculture without any fear of doing any injury thereby to British interests of any kind or class. It is therefore very strange that Government is not yet trying to improve the agriculture of the country. It is appointing passed Cirencester students as Deputy Magistrates, and has entrusted a man who possesses no knowledge of agriculture with the administration of the agricultural fund. By employing a few instructed cultivators, Government can establish a model farm at a very small cost. But Government does not, it seems, desire to do anything that will really benefit the people of this country.

SOM PRAKASH,  
March 11th, 1889.

35. The same paper says that the policy followed by the British Government is similar to that of the *thicca* ryot who knows that he will not have the

The policy of the English Government in India. land in his possession after some years, and therefore tries to wrench as much out of it as he can without regarding the damage which it will sustain in future by reason of his dealing with it in this way. If the English Government had taken any thought of the future of this country it could not have followed the ruinous policy which it is now pursuing. In every country expenditure is adjusted or cut down to income. But here in India expenditure is first thought of and means for meeting it are next devised. The Viceroys propose the expenditure of large sums of money for various purposes, and are thus compelled to incur debt. They try to enrich England with Indian money without paying the least regard to the condition of India's own men. A technical school cannot be opened for want of money, but large sums of money are wasted on the Simla exodus year after year. It is strange that Government is not ashamed to think that three-fourths of the revenue of India is going away to England. It would not be wrong to say that whenever Government appoints a Commission it does so with the object of getting some means of additional revenue devised by it. The Rent Commission has indirectly increased the revenue of Government by making suggestions in regard to the collection of rent by the zemindars and the acquirement of the occupancy right by the ryots, which, being embodied in the Tenancy Act, have stimulated litigation.

SOM PRAKASH.

36. The *Grāmvāsi*, of the 13th March, heartily thanks Sir Steuart Bayley for abolishing outstills in Howrah, Hooghly, Nuddea, and the 24-Pergunnahs.

GRAMVASI,  
March 13th, 1889.

May God shower blessings upon Sir Steuart !

37. A correspondent of the same paper, referring to the rumour that

The Bagnan post office in the Ulu-beriah sub-division. the newly-established post office at Bagnan will be abolished, says that as most of the letters in the Moheshrakha post office come from the Bagnan post office, the best course to adopt will be, not to abolish the Bagnan post office, but to remove the Moheshrakha post office to Bagnan.

GRAMVASI.

## IV.—NATIVE STATES.

URDU GUIDE,  
March 8th, 1889.

PRAJA BANDHU,  
March 8th, 1889.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
March 12th, 1889.

DAINIK O SAMACHAR  
CHANDRIKA,  
March 14th, 1889.

38. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 8th March, says that the present deplorable condition of the Mahomedans of Cashmere. Cashmere is due to a want of proper supervision on the part of the durbar officials, who take no interest in their welfare.

39. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 8th March, says that the arrangements made by Sir Lepel Griffin in the Gwalior State have resulted in an annual deficit of

seven lakhs of rupees. Are the authorities ignorant of this, or have they been winking at these proceedings of Sir Lepel in consideration of the loan of three-and-a-half crores of rupees which Government has obtained through his instrumentality from the Gwalior State? Lord Dufferin promised to the late Maharajah that he would look to the interests of the minor Prince. The English Government will earn indelible disgrace if it does not keep that promise and upset Sir Lepel Griffin's arrangements.

40. The *Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 12th March, refers to the rumour that some treasonable letters, from which it appears that the Maharajah of Cashmere was intriguing against the English Government, and had thought of poisoning the late Resident, Colonel Plowden, have fallen into the hands of Colonel Nisbet, the present Resident, and that the Maharajah has admitted his guilt to the Resident and has himself proposed to abdicate the throne, and says that every one ought to bear in mind how Luchman Das, from whom Colonel Nisbet has got the incriminating letters, has been saying bad things about the Maharajah ever since his dismissal, and what eagerness he displayed to obtain an interview with Lord Dufferin. Luchman Das once spread the rumour that the Maharajah was intriguing with Russia, but was himself accused of a similar offence. These letters alone will not be satisfactory evidence. It is very easy to forge letters, and it is not very difficult to make the Maharajah make any confession against himself. The case of Mulhar Rao is still fresh in men's minds. The rumour is likely to prove false; at all events all that it says is not likely to be true.

41. The *Dainik o Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 14th March, says that the Anglo-Indian papers give the following account of the way in which the alleged treasonable letters of the Maharajah of Cashmere came into the hands of Colonel Nisbet.

They say that Luchman Das had placed his papers in the hands of the Counsel, Mr. Spitta, for making an appeal against his dismissal. On Mr. Spitta's death, Mrs. Spitta made over the papers to a native, who discovered among them letters revealing a conspiracy for poisoning the late Resident, Mr. Plowden, and who placed them in the hands of Colonel Nisbet. This is a cock-and-bull story which it would require a large amount of stupid credulity to believe. Mr. Spitta had told Luchman Das that there was no ground for an appeal. Why did not then Luchman Das take back his papers at once? And why did he not at any rate take back his papers immediately after Mr. Spitta's death? Even if the rumour about the discovery of treasonable letters prove true, it is in the highest degree probable that they will be found to be forged letters. When the Parnell letters have been found to be forged letters, any letter may prove to be forged. It will not be difficult to dispel the cloud that now hangs over the Cashmere State. But a strong and a good mind is required to dispel it, and the writer does not know what sort of a man Colonel Nisbet is. The Anglo-Indian papers have, however, sounded the note of alarm. They say that a Council should at any rate be at once established in Cashmere, and the Maharajah's powers should be curtailed. The writer has known for a long time that Cashmere will not be safe much longer.

## V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

42. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 9th March, says that excessive and untimely rainfall in the Doro and Mahishadal pergunnahs of the Midnapore district has made the condition of those pergunnahs very miserable. Failure of crops has driven many to beggary and thieving. Government has always helped the people of the Doro and Majnamutha Khas Mehals in times of distress. In 1230, 1240, 1272, 1257 and 1276B.S., Government supplied them with food and clothing, and helped them by making tuccavi advances and granting remissions of rent, and it is requested to help them again by remitting rent and stopping the certificate process for the collection of the same.

BANGABÁSI,  
March 9th, 1889.

## VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

43. The *Chandravilásh*, of the 2nd March, says that the condition of the river Bhagirathi near Berhampore is very bad. In many places the water has dried up, and in some places it is less than knee-deep, and has become unfit for drinking purposes. The financial condition of the Berhampore Municipality is such as to make it doubtful whether the Commissioners would be able to supply the town with pure drinking-water in the hot season. Under these circumstances, Berhampore naturally turns towards the benevolent Maharani Swarnamayi as the only person who can provide the town with water works at her cost.

CHANDRAVILASH,  
March 2nd, 1889.

44. The *Srimanta Sadágar*, of the 4th March, says that the tract of country belonging to China and lying near the Burmese frontier, which has been visited by a terrible famine, has a very dense population. But the tract in Burma which lies close to it has a very sparse population. And as the Chinese are a more civilised, hardworking and intelligent people than their Burmese neighbours, the English Government ought to make the best use of this famine by inducing numbers of these suffering Chinese to come over and settle in Upper Burma. Government's proposal to take Indians over to Upper Burma for settling in that country is not a very wise one, For there are extensive waste lands still in Assam and on the Indian frontier where Indian labour will find employment for years to come.

SRI MANTA SADAGAR,  
March 4th, 1889.

45. The *Bhárat Mitra*, of the 7th March, says that the decision of the case instituted by the Jainas for closing the lard manufactory on the Pareshnath Hill has wounded the religious feelings of that community. The killing of animals on that hill was prohibited by the Emperor Akbar, and animals have not been killed there until very recently. Government should therefore show proper respect for the religious feelings of the Jaina community by directing the abolition of the lard manufactory on the Pareshnath Hill.

BHARAT MITRA,  
March 7th, 1889.

46. The *Samaya*, of the 8th March, says that the Calcutta Museum serves at present no other purpose except furnishing amusement for town idlers and village sightseers. Thus the object with which the Museum was established is not being attained. The writer is of opinion that much good will be done if a qualified officer is stationed in each court to explain to the visitors the nature, properties, &c., of the objects kept in it. It would also be well to set apart one day in the week only for female visitors.

SAMAYA  
March 8th, 1889.

47. The same paper says that India being an agricultural country, the condition of her people is materially affected by the nature of the rainfall, and both drought and flood are followed by scarcity of food and even famine. But it is very much within the power of man to

The zamindars and the excavation of tanks.

minimise the evil which springs from this source. There are wealthy and influential zemindars all over the country, and they spend large sums of money on useless luxuries. If they devote all such money to the excavation of *khals*, *beels* and tanks, the country will no longer suffer much from scarcity of water and the results of agricultural operations will be in a great measure guaranteed or assured. This will also benefit the zemindars themselves, for, with successful crops year after year, rents will not fall into arrear. The Permanent Settlement was made on the distinct understanding that the zemindars would excavate tanks, &c., within their zemindaries. But the zemindars have not fulfilled that condition, and the corn-fields of Bengal have shown no improvement whatever since that Settlement. These fields are now rather worse than they were at the date of the Cornwallis Settlement.

SULABH SAMACHAR O  
KUSHDAHA,  
March 8th, 1889.

48. The *Sulabh Samachar o Kushdaha*, of the 8th March, reports the prevalence of cholera at Kheshra, a village situated within the jurisdiction of the Magura thana, in the Satkhira sub-division of the Khulna district. A large number of people have died of that disease for want of medical aid. Baboo Shyama Charn Mitra, the Sub-divisional Officer of Satkhira, is earnestly requested to save the lives of the poor villagers by sending a doctor to that village without delay.

BANGABASI,  
March 9th, 1889.

49. Referring to the circular issued by Baboo Prabhat Nath Rai, Deputy Magistrate of Julpigoree, inviting all widows who are desirous of marrying again to an asylum established by him, the *Bangabasi*, of the 9th March, observes as follows :—

The use of Prabhat Baboo's official designation in the circular will perhaps displease Hindu society. By so doing, Prabhat Baboo is abusing his official influence, and it is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will take due notice of this.

SANJIVANI,  
March 9th, 1889.

50. The *Sanjivani*, of the 9th March, is sorry to learn that the Queen has been in indifferent health for some time past, and that Her Majesty has gone to Biarritz under medical advice. Queen Victoria is respected not only in England, but throughout the world, for her high character, and the news of her indisposition has given rise to anxiety among her loyal subjects, and especially among her Indian subjects. May she quickly recover !

SOM PRAKASH,  
March 11th, 1889.

51. The *Som Prakash*, of the 11th March, complains of mismanagement in the steamers of Messrs. Hoare, Miller and Company. The steamers are ill-lighted at night and are overcrowded. The Company issues tickets to passengers for a voyage to Tumlook, but sets them down on the side of the river opposite to that place. The passengers have therefore to cross over to Tumlook in ferry-boats, and have sometimes to pay exorbitant fares for this. Government should attend to these complaints.

NAVAVIBHAKAR  
SADHARANI,  
March 11th, 1889.

52. The *Navavibhikar Sadharani*, of the 11th March, says that the history of the Hugly district written by Mr. Toynbee's history of the Hugly district. Mr. Toynbee and published by Government shows want of full research. In fact, all

Mr. Toynbee's enquiries were made within Hugly town itself. He could have availed himself of his mofussil tours to make more extended enquiries, but he did not do so. This is why his book is silent about Triveni and Bansberia as famous seats of Sanskrit learning in former times. Mr. Toynbee has also cast aspersions on the Bengali character. He has endorsed the following opinion of a former Magistrate of Hugly regarding the Bengalis :—“They are perfectly skilled in the art of deceiving, but are not

themselves less easily deceived or imposed upon." Did Government pay Mr. Toynbee money belonging to the Bengalis in order that he might abuse the Bengalis themselves?

#### URIYA PAPERS.

53. All the native papers of the week under report express great regret at the transfer of Mr. Worsley, the Commissioner of Orissa, from that Province. Mr. Worsley's transfer from Orissa.

54. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad*, of the 13th February, and the *Utkal Dipikā* of the 23rd February, inform the public that an oppressive practice of taxing bullocks which cross the Coast Canal at different points

Bullock tax at the Orissa Coast canal. by swimming from one side to the other at the rate of one pice per head is in vogue at or near Bhograe in the Balasore district. As the Coast Canal runs between the homesteads of many peasants and their fields, they are compelled to cross it every day with their bullocks. Under such circumstances it is sheer cruelty to realise a tax at the rate of one pice per bullock, though the bullocks cross the canal by swimming. It is even suspected in several quarters that the tax is an irregular one, and is levied without the knowledge of Government.

55. The *Utkal Dipikā*, of the 16th February thanks Sir Steuart Bayley for the encouraging letter he has written to the

Uriyas in the public service. Secretary of the Orissa Graduates and Under-Graduates Association, intimating that the prayer of the Association, in so far as it relates to appointments in the Subordinate Executive Service, would be taken into consideration when the question would come up before Government for final decision. It hopes, however, that the Lieutenant-Governor has kept his promise made during his late visit to Cuttack, and has put himself in communication with the Chief Justice on the subject of the admission of the natives of Orissa into the ranks of the Subordinate Judicial Service.

56. The same paper in a long and interesting article points out the necessity of opening an M. A. class in connection with the Ravenshaw College at Cuttack, and entreats Sir Steuart Bayley to make the

An M. A. class in the Ravenshaw College. result of His Honour's promised consultation with the Director of Public Instruction known to the public. The article ends with an exhortation to the benevolent nobility and gentry of Orissa to come forward with donations in order to meet Government half way in this matter.

57. The *Utkal Dipikā*, of the 23rd February, is very angry to find that an Inspector of the Pooree Municipality entered the sacred precincts of the Jagannath

The Pooree Municipality and the Pooree Temple. Temple with measuring tape enclosed in a leather case. As a necessary consequence of the forbidden leather entering the temple, the eatables that had been made ready for presentation to the god were all desecrated and thrown away, and the great god had to undergo the ceremony of *mahnana* (great bathing). A large number of men and women in the town, who were waiting for the *mahaprasad*, had to fast in disappointment, and the Superintendent of the Temple was greatly inconvenienced at the loss of a large quantity of eatables of considerable value. The paper regrets to note the highhanded proceedings of the Pooree Municipality, but reserves criticism, pending the receipt of fresh news on the subject.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

58. The *Paridarshak*, of the 4th March, is sorry to find that the Chief Commissioner of Assam has permitted Parvati Baboo to resign the service. Mr. Driburgh, the Deputy Commissioner of

Mr. Driburgh, Deputy Commissioner of Dibrugarh.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Feb. 13th, 1889.  
UTKAL DIPAKA,  
Feb. 23rd, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
Feb. 16th, 1889.

UTKAL DIPAKA.

UTKAL DIPAKA,  
Feb. 23rd, 1889.

PARIDARSHAK  
March 4th 1889.

Dibrugarh, is a precious gentleman, who entertains the most unfriendly feelings towards the Bengalis and educated persons. And educated men of good character therefore find it impossible to serve under him. Parvati Baboo has done well in tendering his resignation, for it is not proper for any one to sell his liberty to Government for a few rupees.

PARIDARSHAK.  
Marc 4th, 1889.

59. The same paper says that Mr. Messurier, the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet, who is the lord of the local police, convicts on the slightest evidence persons who are sent up by the police for trial, and always tries to shield the police when they behave in a highhanded manner. The following are cases in point: —

(1).—Some time ago Baboo Mahes Chandra Das, the Sub-Inspector of the Balagunge thana, went to Tajpore to investigate a case. There are in that village many Brahmins and Kayasthas, but he preferred taking quarters in the house of a low-caste Jugi. After that, he says, some people, intending to do him injury, sent a young Jugi woman into the room which was occupied by him and then assaulted him and took him to the house of the local zemindar, Nabin Baboo, where he was set free on his signing a bond for Rs. 600. He instituted a suit, and Baboo Baikunta Chandra Das, the Inspector of Police, was ordered to make enquiries. The Inspector *challaned* some persons. To save his pet Sub-Inspector, Mr. Messurier committed the accused to the Sessions; but the Sessions Judge has dismissed the case.

(2).—Some time ago Mr. Messurier committed some men to the Sessions on a charge of murder, but the Sessions Judge acquitted the accused.

(3).—An Inspector of Police was accused of having taken bribes. Mr. Ritchie, the District Superintendent of Police, reported that he did not believe the charge to be true, and Mr. Messurier concurred in his view. He thereupon caused proceedings to be instituted against the complainant for perjury. On another occasion he charged another complainant with the same offence.

Justice has apparently disappeared from Sylhet! With Mr. Ritchie as head of the Sylhet Police and Mr. Messurier as the Magistrate, the people of Sylhet can only suffer oppression.

PARIDARSHAK.

60. The same paper complains of thefts at Rangauti, a village situated near the town of Sylhet. Thefts are committed there almost every night, and the police has not succeeded in tracing the thieves. Thefts are also reported from the town of Sylhet. The police should look sharp.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 16th March 1889.